



¶ By the King.

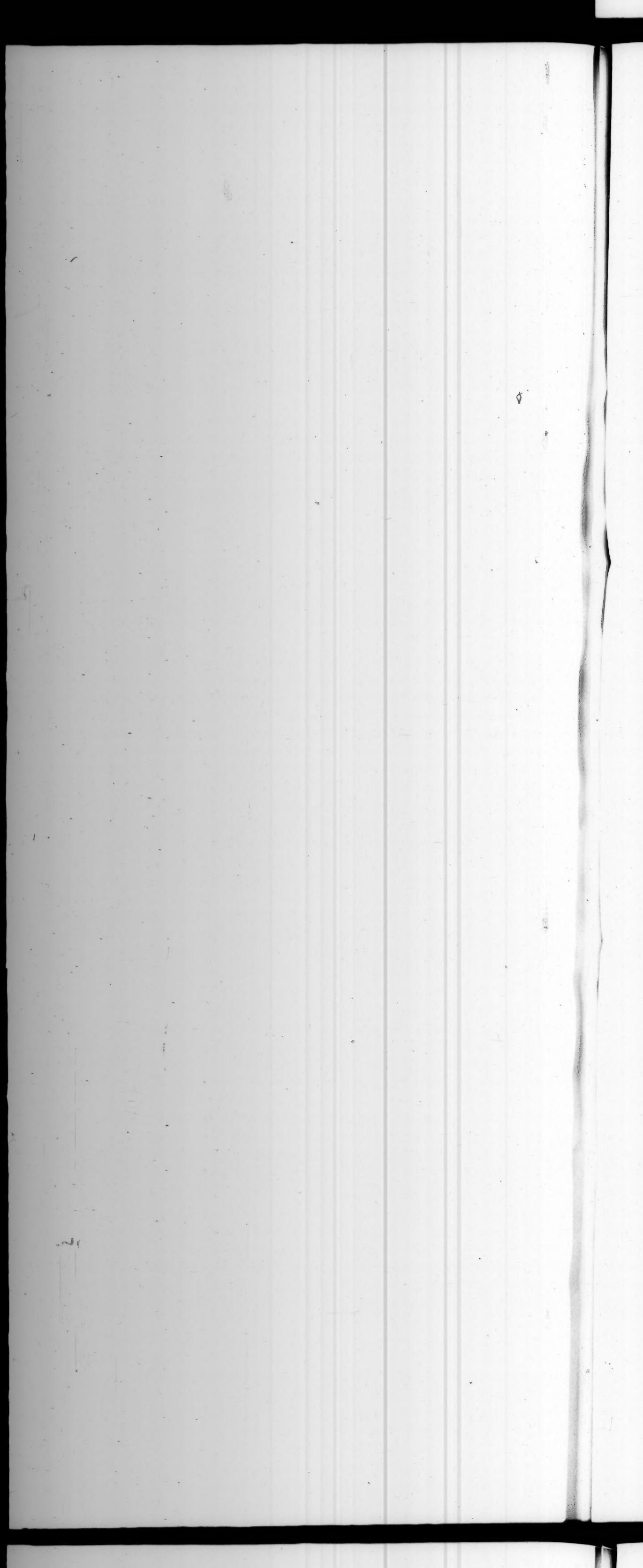
¶ A Proclamation touching the Surveying of the  
Seacoals of Newcastle, Sunderland, and Blythe.



¶ As much as the Commoditie of Seacoals of Newcastle vpon Tyne, Sunderland, and Blythe, Within Our County of Northumberland, and Our County Palatine of Duresme, and the places therunto adioyning, is a merchandize so vsefull, as well in respect of the decay of Wood already much wasted within this Our Realme of England, as also in respect of the transporting of them into forreigne parts to the aduancement of the Trade of this Kingdome, by the native commodity thereof, as that we haue thought it a matter well worthy Our speciall care, and much impoſting the state and welfare of this Our Common Wealth, to vphold and maintaine the reputation and value of the same:

And whereas vpon Information and Complaint made vnto Us heretofore, of the many and great deceits, and abuses, done and offered vnto Us, and Our louing Subiects of this Our Realme of England by the Dastmen, Diggers, Getters, and Traders for Coale in the Coale-mines of Newcastle, Sunderland, and Blythe aforesaid, and in all other places thereabouts, where the said Coales are digged and gotten, who in stead of good and merchantable Coales, send and bring vnto Our citie of London, and other parts of this Our Realme of England, and elsewhere, much Blacke earth, Drosse, Slate, and other vndermerchantable stufte, which ariseth in, and about the said Coale-pittes, and is blacke like Coales, but not fit to burne, or fふble, and which the Dastmen, Diggers and Traders in Coales, doe well knowe, and yet doe purposely and voluntarily mingle the said deceitfull Blacke earth, Slate, Stone, and other vnfuelable stufte amongst their good Coales, and sell and vtter the same for good and merchantable Coales, to the enriching of themselves, the prejudice of the Common-Wealth, and the disgrace, and discredit of the said commodity in forreigne parts:

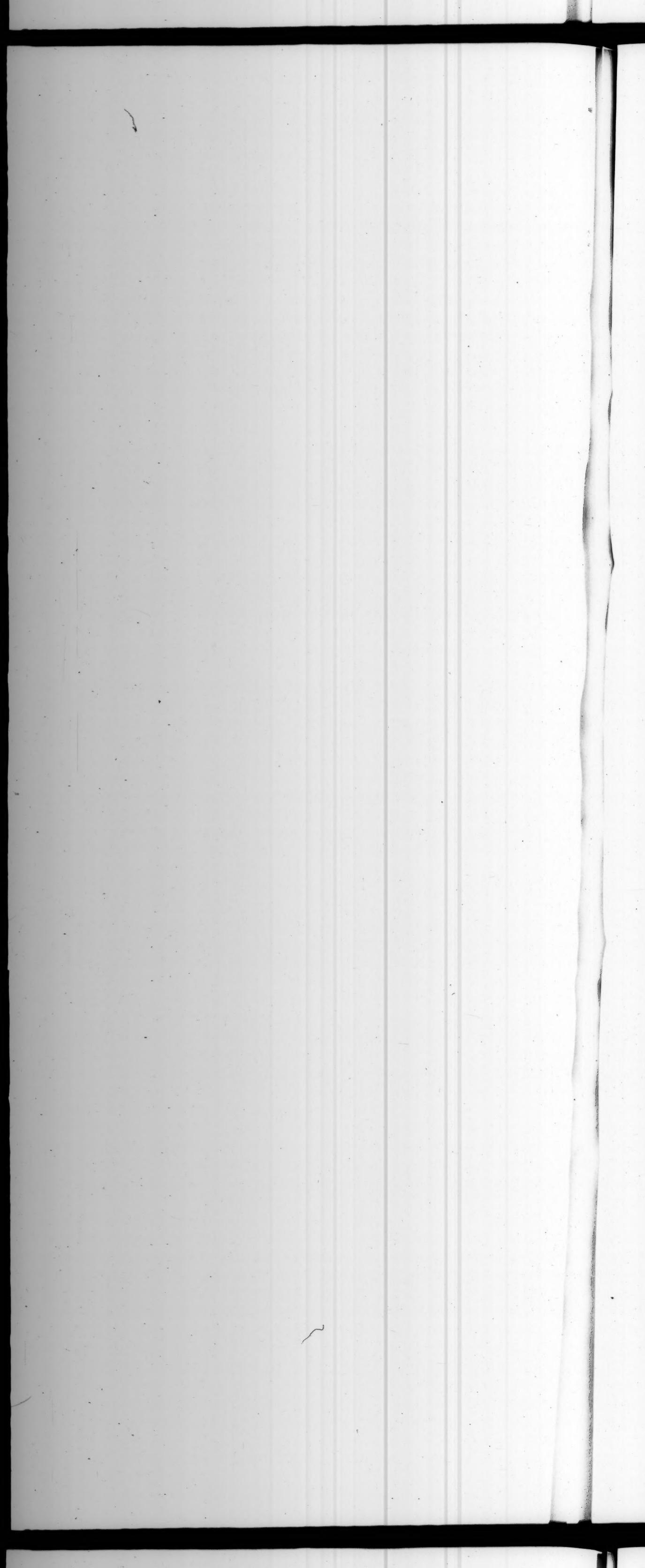
Wee hereupon taking into Our princely care and consideration, the qualitie of these abuses, and the consequences thereof, and much desiring a reformation of the same, yet Our care was that the said abuses informed of, might first evidently appeare to bee such indeede, as they were alleadged to be, and the offendours and their manner of offending discouered thereby, the better to finde out a remedy to prevent the like inconueniences, and to that end wee did referre the examination of the same, first vnto some of Our Counsell learned in the Law at that time, who made certificate



thereof unto Us, and afterwards the Lords, and others of Our Prive Counsell, vpon Petition exhibited unto them by the Traders, and Laders of Seacoales at Newcastle, did take consideration of the same, and did order and appoint a tryall thereof, to bee had by a legall proceeding in Our high Court of Starre-chamber; vpon which triall, as also by the certificate aforesaid, it did then appeare, That there were, and are severall sorts of Coales, at or neere Newcastle, some of tenne and eleven shillings the chaldron, whiche are good and fuelable, and some of foure or five shillings the chaldron, whiche are drossie, and vnfuelable, fit onely for Salt-pannes, and Lime-kilnes: And that albeit there are sufficient stoe of good Coales to serue the Realme of England, and forreigne bent, without any mixture of the bad, yet nevertheless the Oastmen, and Traders for Coales at Newcastle, (claiming a speciall Priviledge to sell them to the Shippers) haue vsed voluntarily to mingle the good Coales with the bad and drossie Coales, and to sell them so mingled to geiher at the highest rates of tenne and eleven shillings the chaldron, warranting them all to bee of the best Coales, by this meanes gaining almost halfe in halfe, whiche said voluntary mingling, and corrupting of Coales, Our said Court of Starre-chamber found to be a great and generall abuse and enormity to Our Whole Realme, and very meete to be suppressed, reformed and punished. And did then decree, that the offendours, then the Defendants, should be committed to the Fleet, and fynd twenty pounds a piece.

And to the end that others might take notice, how far Our said Court did mislike, & condemne the said fraud and deceit, and their resolution to punish the same, The said Court thought fit, and so ordered, that the said Decree should bee publicquely read in open market, in the towne of Newcastle, where the said offence had beeene committed, on two Market dayes, when most people were assembled, for the more publicque declaration thereof to the Countrey, as by the said Decree more at large appeareth.

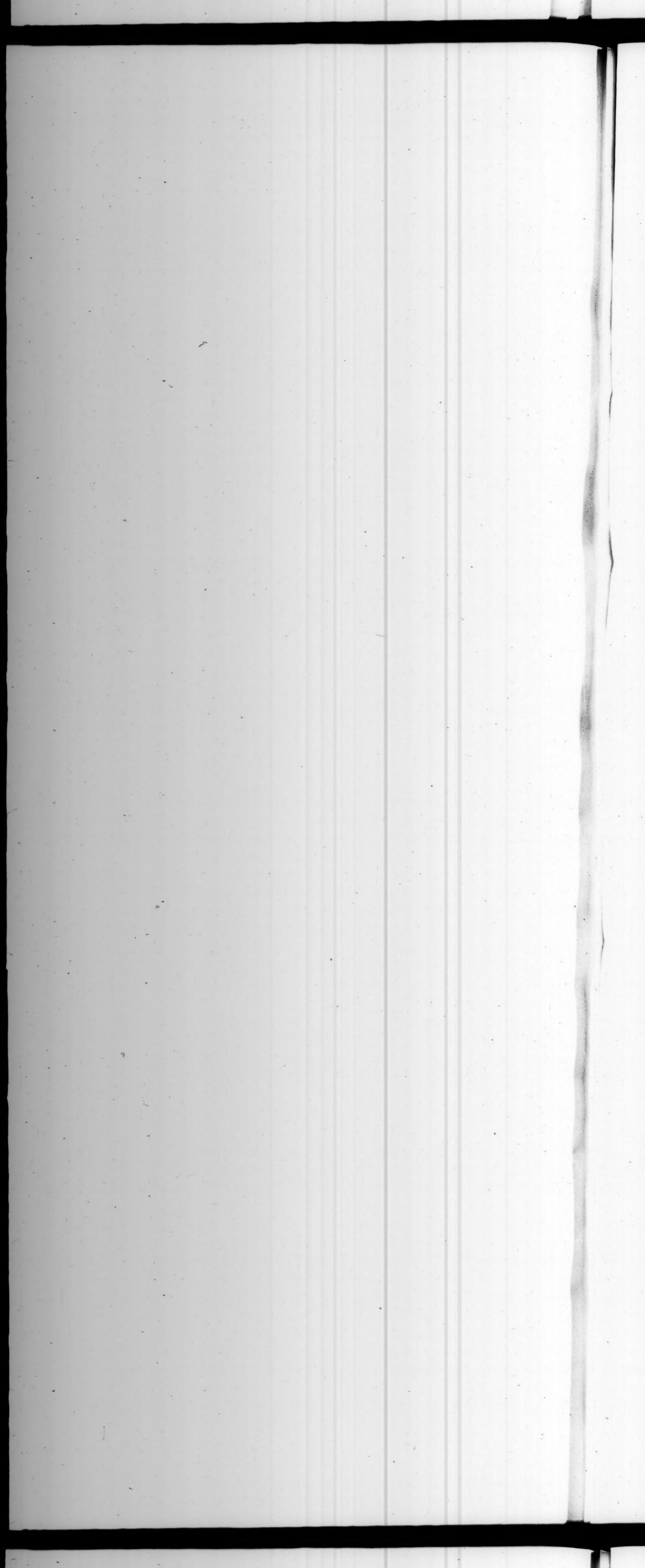
And Whereas, notwithstanding that exemplary punishment, inflicted by Our said Court of Starre-chamber, as aforesaid, and the publicque manifestation thereof, before declared, Our desire for a due reformation of the abuses before mentioned, did not take that effect which wee expected, but the deceits, and abuses aforesaid, did rather more and more increase, insomuch as the Masters, Wardens, Assistants, and companies of Wood-mongers, Brewers, Chaundlers, and other Traders in London for Newcastle-Coales, became petitioners unto Us, craving Our gracious fauour and assistance for the due reformation thereof, wherupon, and vpon consideration againe thereof had, by severall committees from the Lords, and others of Our Prive Councell, at severall times, vpon severall petitions exhibited, aswell by the Wood-mongers, Brewers, Chaundlers, and Traders for Coales in London, and other Porte Townes within this Our Realme of England, as also by the Shippers Masters, & Owners of Ships, trading for Coales from Newcastle as aforesaid, and vpon survey, and examination of the true state of those Coale mines, and Coale-pits, by their Lordships speciall directions had, and taken, it appeared, and was found, that the abuses and deceits aforesaid, (notwithstanding the pretences to the contrary) did yet continue, and that there was no meanes so probable for reformation of the same, as the vigilant care and paines of faithfull and industrious persons, to be employed and attendant at the Coale-pits, and wharves of Newcastle, and other places adiacent, and they to be furnished with absolute authority from Us, for the prohibiting, and preventing of the deceitfull mixture of Coales, by the Oastmen and others, and to make certificates of the goodnessse, or badnesse of Coales, for the buyers direction, and avoideing of deceits therein not discernable by the eye; And the said Lords, and others of Our Prive Councell, did humbly propose unto Us, divers limitations, orders, and prouisions, whiche they con-  
tinued fit and obseruable in the execution of the same. Wee therefore having well considered, and



aprooved of the propositions, and prouisions before mentioned, and of the great care, and extraordinary charge vsed in the discouery of the abuses aforesaid, and of prouiding, propounding, and setting a fit and apt meanes for the reformation thereof, haue graciouly beene pleased, not onely to reuoke all former Letters Patents, by Us made for that purpose, (they in some particulars being found to bee defective,) but by other Our Letters Patents vnder Our great Seale of England, bearing date the twentith day of September, in the one and twentith yeere of Our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the seuen and fiftieth, Haue for Us, Our Heires and successours, straitly ordained, established, charged and prohibited, that thereafter none of the said low prized Coales, called Panne coales, nor Drotte, blacke Earth, or other unmerchable stiffe whatsoeuer, shall by any of the said Oastmen, Owners, and Diggers of the said Newcastle Coales, or by any other person or persons whatsoeuer, be mingled, mixed, or put amongst good and merchantable Coales, nor shall at any time, or times hereafter, being so mingled, be brought, or transported into any the ports, or places of this Our Realme of England, or transported into any the parts beyond the Seas, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and other the penalties therein contained.

And for the better obseruation and performance of Our will and pleasure in the same, we haue in, and by Our said Letters Patents, made, ordained, appointed, constituted, and erected an office to haue perpetuall continuance, whiche for euer hereafter shall be, and shall be called the office of Surveyour of Coales to be shipp'd at Newcastle, Sunderland, and Blythe, or any of them, or at any other places adiacent, to be brought and transported to Our citie of London, or other places of this Our Kingdome of England, or any the parts beyond the Seas; whiche said office, we, of Our especiall Grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, and at the request and nomination of Our late right trusty and right Welbeloued Couzen and Councillour, Lodowicke Duke of Richmond and Lenox, since deceased, haue by Our said Letters Patents graunted vnto Our trusty and Welbeloued Sir Robert Sharpeigh Knight, and Alexander Hately Esquire, to hold to them and their Assigues, for the space of one and twentie yeeres, with such Fees and Allowances, and such Cautions, Directions, Limitations, and Prorisions for the execution thereof, as by the said Lords, and others of Our priuie Councell haue beene thought fit and aduised, as in, and by the said Letters Patents more at large may appeare.

Now, to the end Our loving Subjects may perceiue with what care and caution Our selfe and Our priuie Councell haue proceeded in this busynesse for the welfare of Our people, and the prevention of all future inconuenience that may arise in a busynesse of this nature, and to the end such as haue heretofore beeene Delinquents in the premisses, may hereby take notice of Our pleasure, and not plead their ignorance, as an excuse for their misdemeanour; wee haue thought fit hereby to make manifest and declare such speciaall and necessary obseruations and directions, tending to the reformation aforesaid, and contained in Our said Letters Patents, as are most meet to be published, and of necessitie to be obserued in the performance of the same; And doe therefore signifie and declare Our will and pleasure to be, and we doe hereby straitly charge, prohibite and command, aswell all and every the said Oastmen, and all others trading for Seacoales at Newcastle, Sunderland and Blythe aforesaid, and the places adiacent, or working thereon, or employed in or about the same, as also all and euery the Masters and Owners of any Shippes, Boats, Hoyes, Crayer or other vessels employed for the conueying, transporting, or bringing the said Seacoales vnto Our said citie of London, or vnto any other Ports or places of this Our realme of England, or into any the parts beyond the Seas, That they, or any of them presume not to endeavour or attempt at any time or times hereafter, directly or indirectly by any practise or devise whatsoeuer, to mingle or mixe



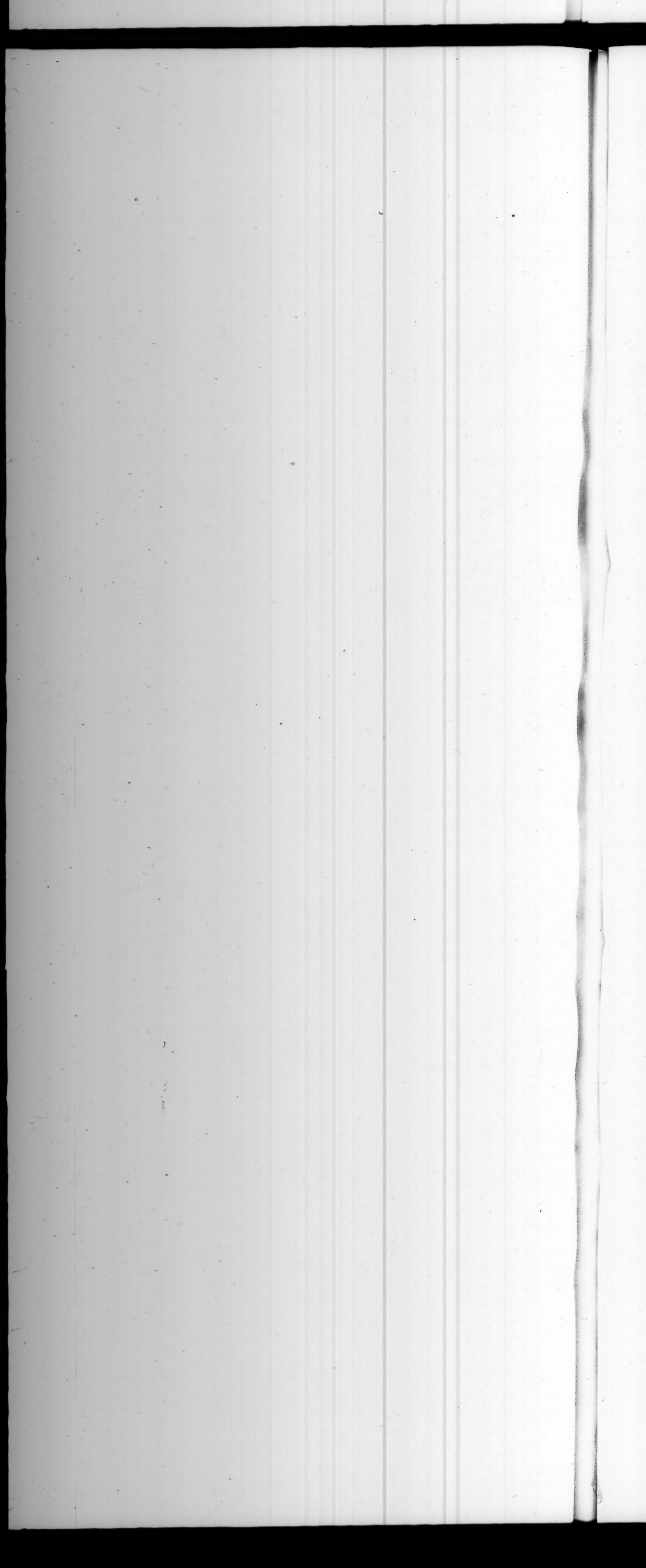
any of the said low prized and vnusefull Coales, Dross, Slate, Blacke-earth, or other vnmer-  
chantable Coales, not well picked or wealled, amongst, or with any the said good, pure and fuel-  
able Coales, neither shall buy, lade, or freight into any their Ships, Boats, or other vessels any  
of the said drossy, and vnumerchandise Coales, as aforesaid, mingled with the said good and mer-  
chantable Coales; Nor shall at any time or times hereafter convey or transport any of the said  
base and vnumerchandise Coales in any ship or other vessell whatsoeuer, in which the said good  
and merchantable Coales are conveyed or transported, nor together with the said good Coales.  
And that no Woodmongers, Wharfingers, merchants, or other traders in Coales whatsoeuer, shal  
at any time or times hereafter, lay or cause to be laid any of the said baser sort of Coales vpon one  
and the selfe same Wharffe, together with the said good Coales.

And further, that none of the said Masters or Owners of Ships or other vessels, shall trans-  
port or convey any such mingled Coales, or any other Coales, of what nature or qualitie soever,  
Without Certificate from the Officer or Officers of Us, Our Heires and Successors appointed  
for the surveying of Seacoales, as aforesaid, their Deputie or Deputies, vnder the Seale of  
their said Office, testifying the goodnesse, qualitie, or badnesse of his and their Coales, and the quan-  
titie thereof first had and obtained; And that no Woodmonger, Wharfinger, merchant, or trader in  
Seacoales in Our said citie of London, or in any other place or places whatsoeuer, Within this Our  
realme of England, shall at any time or times hereafter, presume or goe about to buy or take any  
Coales of any Shipper, Owner or Master of any Ship, or other vessel whatsoeuer, that shall not  
shew and produce such certificate, as aforesaid, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such other  
paines, penalties and imprisonments as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our realme of Eng-  
land, or by Our prerogative Royall, can or may be inflicted vpon them for their disobedience and  
contempt of Our Royall commandement in this behalfe.

And wee Will, and Our pleasure is, that for the more certaine prevention of the abuses afore-  
said, All and euery the Mastmen, Fitters, and Coale-owners, Staithes-men, Merchants for  
Coales, and all and singuler Masters and Owners of Shippes or other vessels, when they or any  
of them shall agree or contract together for any Coales to be conveyed or transported, as aforesaid,  
that they and euery of them, by themselves, their seruants, deputies or agents, shall from time to  
time deliver, or cause to be delivered unto the said officer or officers of Us, Our Heires and Suc-  
cessors or his or their deputie, or deputies for the time being, true notes and tickets in Writing, testifying  
the sortes and quantties of all such Coales, as from time to time they shall contract for, and from  
what Staithes they shall be scrued and sent aboard, before the lading and clearing of the same, in  
such sort and manner, as by Our Letters Patents before recited is directed and set downe.

And Whereas, in and by Our Letters Patents aforesaid, and vpon the offer of the Woodmong-  
ers, Brewers and other Traders for Coales in Our citie of London, and by the advise of Our said  
Princie Councell, wee haue granted a Fee of foure pence vpon every great chaldron of Coales  
to be conveyed and transported, as aforesaid, (those that are to be transported beyond the Seas by  
strangers only excepted) to be paid unto the officer or officers of Us, Our Heires and Successors  
for surveying of Seacoales, for their paines and charges in surveying of them, and making certifi-  
cates, and keeping Registers concerning the same; Our pleasure is, that all and euery Masters  
and Owners of ships or other vessels, shall from time to time, vpon their receiving of their Cer-  
tificates aforesaid, pay or cause to be paid unto the said Officer or Officers of Us, Our Heires or Suc-  
cessors, their Deputies or Assigneis the said Fee of foure pence for every great chaldron of Coales,  
by them to be conveyed or transported, as aforesaid.

And that the said Woodmongers, Wharfingers, common Brewers, Dyers, Chaundlers, and  
others buying Coales from the Shippes, or other vessels, and selling the same againe in grosse,



or by retaile, shall well and duly answeare, and pay unto the sayd Schipper, Master, or Owner of any Shippe, or other vessell producing such certificate, the said Fee, or Allowance of foure pence vpon every great Chaldron of Coales, by him or them payd unto Our sayd Officer or Officers, as aforesaid, without inhausing the prices of the said Coales unto Our louny Subiects, that shall buy them againe for their private vse and expence, according to the aduice and order of the Lords, and others of Our Privie Counsell therein.

And Our further Will and pleasure is, and wee doe hereby straitly charge and command the said Sir Robert Sharpeigh, and Alexander Haiteley, vnto whom wee haue granted the said Office of Surveyour of the Seacoales, as aforesaid, That they, the said Sir Robert Sharpeigh, and Alexander Haiteley, their Executors, Administrators, and Assigues, by themselves or their sufficient deputies or seruants, doe, & shall from time to time, during the said terme in Our said Letters Patents to them therof made, contained, faithfully, industriously, and carefully endeauour to see Our will and pleasure in the premisses strictly & duely performed & obserued; And to make true certificates, from time to time, of the quality and quantity of the said Coales, for the preuention of the abuses aforesaid, according to our particular directions in Our Letters Patents aforesaid to them given. And if at any time or times it shall happen, that the sayd Surveyour or Surveyours, their deputies or deputies, shall wittingly and willingly make any false certificate, and it be found at any shipp or other vessell, that the said Coales are contrary to such certificate, corrupted and mingled, and not such in truthe, as they are certified to be; Then Our pleasure is, That the said Surveyours, their Executors, Administrators or Assigues, so wittingly and willingly falsifying the trust wee haue reposed in them, shall make sufficient restitution and satisfaction unto such Merchant, Wood-monger, Wharsinger, and other Traders in Coales, for the Losse and Dammage that he or they shall sustaine thereby.

And lastly, wee doe hereby will and command all and singular Maiors, Justices of Peace, Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, Waiters, Baylises, Constables, Officers, and Ministers of Us, Our Heires and Successours, to whom it shall, or may appertaine, that they, and euery of them, be from time to time, aiding and assisting vnto the said Sir Robert Sharpeigh, and Alexander Haiteley, their Executors, Administrators, Deputies and Assigues, & to all other the Officers of Us, Our Heires and Successours in this behalfe, in all lawfull manner, for the due execution of Our service herein, according to Our pleasure herein signified.

And that they, and euery of them, doe from time to time, cause diligent survey, and inquiry to be made within their severall precincts, limits, and jurisdictions, of all offenders in this behalfe, and together with Our said Officer, or Officers, to make speedy certificate of their names without partiality, or conniuence vnto the Lords and others of Our Privie Councell, or to Our Attourney generall for the time being, that they may be proceeded against in Our Court of Starre-chamber, or otherwise, according to their demerites. And Our will and pleasure is, That aswell the said Lords, and others of Our Privie Councell, as Our Attourney generall for the time being, vse all care and diligence, to punishe with seuerity, aswell the partiality, negligence, and remissesse of the said Maiors, Justices of Peace, Surveyours of Coales, and other Officers aforesaid, in not making due survey, or certificate, as aforesaid, as the contemptuous behaviour of such, as shall presume to violate this Our Proclamation, or the Letters Patents before recited.

Giuen at Our Court at Newmarket the sixteenth day of February, in the two and twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the eight and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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